



TOWN HALL
4 Boltwood Avenue
Amherst, MA 01002-2351

TOWN OF AMHERST FUEL EFFICIENT VEHICLE POLICY

Approval Date:	Select Board: School Committee:
Effective Date:	
Revisions:	

The Amherst Select Board and the Amherst School Committee have approved the following policy to govern the replacement of all non-exempt municipal vehicles with fuel efficient vehicles, as defined below.

POLICY STATEMENT

In an effort to reduce the Town of Amherst's fuel consumption and energy costs ~~over the next five years~~, the Select Board and School Committee hereby adopt a policy to purchase only fuel efficient vehicles to meet this goal.

PURPOSE

To establish a requirement that the Town of Amherst purchase only fuel efficient vehicles for municipal and local public school use whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all divisions and departments of the Town of Amherst, including the local public schools. Amherst Regional Public Schools are not subject to this policy.

DEFINITIONS

Combined city and highway MPG (EPA Combined fuel economy): Combined Fuel Economy means the fuel economy from driving a combination of 43% city and 57% highway miles and is calculated as follows:

$$=1/((0.43/\text{City MPG})+(0.57/\text{Highway MPG}))$$

Drive System: The manner in which mechanical power is directly transmitted from the drive shaft to the wheels. The following codes are used in the drive field:



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- AWD = All Wheel Drive: four-wheel drive automatically controlled by the vehicle powertrain system
- 4WD = 4-Wheel Drive: driver selectable four-wheel drive with 2-wheel drive option
- 2WD = 2-Wheel Drive

Heavy-duty vehicle: A vehicle with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 8,500 pounds.

GUIDELINES

All departments and divisions shall purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles for municipal use whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable.

The Town of Amherst and local public schools will maintain an annual vehicle inventory for ~~ALL non-exempt~~ vehicles and a plan for replacing ~~any non-exempt these~~ vehicles with vehicles that meet, at a minimum, the fuel efficiency ratings contained in the most recent guidance for Criteria 4 published by the MA Department of Energy Resources' Green Communities Division. The fuel efficiency ratings contained therein are based on the most recently published US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) combined city and highway MPG ratings for vehicles. Based on the 2010 EPA data, vehicles are to have a combined city and highway MPG no less than the following:

- 2 wheel drive car: 29 MPG
- 4 wheel drive car: 24 MPG
- 2 wheel drive small pick-up truck: 21 MPG
- 4 wheel drive small pick-up truck: 19 MPG
- 2 wheel drive standard pick-up truck: 17 MPG
- 4 wheel drive standard pick-up truck: 16 MPG
- 2 wheel drive sport utility vehicle: 21 MPG
- 4 wheel drive sport utility vehicle: 18 MPG

The EPA maintains a database on vehicle fuel efficiency that is updated occasionally throughout the year as new models are released. As increasing numbers of fuel efficient vehicle models are released, the minimum combined MPG requirements of the Green Communities Program may be revised. This policy may be updated from time to time to reflect any changes to the MPG requirements. The latest fuel efficiency MPG ratings are available through Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Program.



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This Green Communities' Guidance for Criteria 4 must be checked for updates prior to ordering new vehicles.

Exemptions

- Heavy-duty vehicles. Examples include fire-trucks, ambulances, and some public works trucks that meet the definition of Heavy-duty vehicle.
- Police cruisers, passenger vans and cargo vans are exempt from this criterion as fuel efficient models are not currently available. However, the Town of Amherst is committed to purchasing fuel efficient police cruisers, passenger vans and cargo vans when they become commercially available. Police and fire department administrative vehicles are NOT exempt and must meet fuel efficient requirements.

INVENTORY

The following information shall be included in the vehicle inventory list, which shall be updated on an annual basis and provided to the Green Communities Program:

Model	Make	Model Year	Year Purchased	Drive System (2WD, 4WD, OR AWD)	Weight Class (≥ 8,500 Pounds)	M P G	Annual Miles Driven Ex empt or Non- exempt	Tot al Fue l Con sum ption	Vehicle Function

NOTE: The EPA combined MPG estimates or actual combined MPG can be used to complete the inventory.

FUEL EFFICIENT VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PLAN

The Town of Amherst and local public schools shall develop a plan to replace all non-exempt vehicles with fuel efficient vehicles as defined above. Said plan shall outline the process by which the vehicles will be replaced, set goals for when the existing fleet will be replaced and review said plan on an annual basis. Vehicles shall be replaced when they are no longer operable and will not be recycled from one municipal department to another unless the recycled replacement vehicle meets the fuel efficiency ratings outlined in this Policy. As stated in this Policy, police cruisers are currently exempt from this provision, but new police cruisers shall meet fuel efficiency ratings when fuel efficient cruisers become commercially available.

Town of



AMHERST

Massachusetts

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***Town of Amherst
Select Board***

Stephanie O’Keeffe, Chair

Alisa Brewer

Aaron Hayden, Clerk

Diana Stein

James Wald

Date Signed:

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***Town of Amherst
School Committee***

Irv Rhodes, Chair

Rob Spence, Vice-chair

Katherine Appy

Rick Hood

Steve Rivkin

Date Signed:
